



# United States Capitol Visitor Center Weekly Construction Summary



Prepared by the Capitol Visitor Center Project Office, Architect of the Capitol

November 7, 2005



Aerial photo of the Capitol Visitor Center project site as it appeared November 2, 2005. Approximately 170,000 8-inch-square granite paving stones have been placed across the East Front Plaza. The original Olmsted-designed lanterns and fountains can be seen partially assembled (center of the photo) while new stone benches can be seen on the East Capitol Street Extension. The historic fountains, which had been dormant since the 1970s, will become fully operational when the East Front Plaza opens to the public (see bottom-right photo on opposite page). Meanwhile, crews continue to work on the East Capitol Street utility tunnel (bottom right), which will provide chilled water and steam into the CVC.

## **This Week – Ongoing Work – 11/07/05 through 11/11/05**

### **CVC and East Front Plaza:**

- Workers continue to install mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems, erect masonry block work and metal stud walls, place concrete, install finish stone, and apply plaster to interior spaces.
- Stone crews will continue installing stone inside the Great Hall and the Congressional Auditorium. Only minor stone work remains to be completed inside both orientation theaters.
- On the Service Level, crews continue to make the final duct connections to the air handling units and fans, piping connections to equipment, and final electrical connections.
- Inside the House and Senate Expansion Space, crews continue to install mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems, place floor topping slabs, and erect metal stud walls and drywall.
- Masons have completed installation of the stone steps on the north side of the CVC entrance and that crew will move to the south retaining wall to resume installation of large granite blocks (from Culpeper, VA).
- Foundation work continues below the House Carriageway as part of the effort to construct a small underground tunnel that will connect the House wing directly to House expansion space. Initial foundation work to ensure the stability of the existing Carriageway has been completed and deeper excavation activity is ongoing.
- A temporary hoist just south of the Center Steps will begin to be used to transport mechanical equipment to the roof.
- Crews will continue to lay granite pavers in various zones on the Senate Plaza as restoration activities continue. Pedestrian access will be maintained at all times to the North Door Entrance and the Senate Carriageway.



### **East Capitol Street Utility Tunnel**

- First Street continues to be constricted at the intersection with East Capitol Street to allow for utility work in this zone. A new temporary bridge is being constructed on the west side of First Street to allow crews to relocate an existing utility above and out of the way of the new utility tunnel.
- The utility connections to steam and chilled water lines at Second Street are ongoing and workers continue welding pipes inside the tunnel.
- A crew will place a concrete foundation slab in the tunnel at First Street and a new roof slab over an old book tunnel.



A stone mason trims a sandstone block to be set on a stairwell wall on the west side of the Great Hall.

## **Next Week – 11/14/05 – 11/18/05**

### **CVC and East Front Plaza Work**

- Crews will continue to install ductwork and piping for all heating, cooling, supply, waste water, fire protection, and electrical systems; build mechanical spaces, install cable trays, place concrete, erect blockwork and metal stud walls, and install finish stone in areas on the upper and middle levels of the facility.
- Installation of pipe will continue inside the new utility tunnel along East Capitol Street between First and Second Streets. Related utility tie-in work and concrete placements will continue at First and Second Streets and crews will continue work to relocate the temporary bridge over First Street to clear the way for utility work in that zone.
- Crews will continue installing mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems, metal stud walls, drywall, underslab conduit, ductwork and floor topping slabs in the House and Senate Expansion Space.
- Excavation will continue in the House Carriageway as part of the construction of a small underground tunnel that will connect the House wing directly to the Capitol Visitor Center.
- Restoration of the Senate Plaza will continue with concrete placements and installation of granite pavers.



Stone masons set a cap stone atop a retaining wall in the northeast quadrant of the CVC site. A bronze railing will be installed later.



A worker applies mortar between the concrete masonry blocks that will support the elliptical granite tiers of the historic Olmsted fountain.